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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,114	09/17/2003	Howard W. Morgan	135-103 Filter	4723
31179	7590	09/03/2004		
JAMES D. HALL BOTKIN & HALL, LLP 105 E. JEFFERSON BLVD. SUITE 400 SOUTH BEND, IN 46601			EXAMINER PHAM, MINH CHAU THI	
			ART UNIT 1724	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/664,114	MORGAN, HOWARD W.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Minh-Chau T. Pham	1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/17/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan, Jr. (5,376,271), in view of Bounnakhom et al (5,996,810).

Morgan, Jr. discloses a filter assembly comprising a vessel (34) and a filter element (10) wherein the vessel (34) has a sidewall (40) and a removable cover (48), an inlet (67), an outlet (64) in the vessel (34) for fluid flow through the vessel (34), a filter element (10) including a filter bag (12) having an opening defined by a flexible bag ring (14), a filter basket (66) seated in the vessel (34) between the inlet (67) and the outlet (64) for supporting the filter bag (12), and the bag ring (14) including a sidewall (20) terminating in an outturned peripheral flange (22). Claims 1-5 differ from the disclosure of Morgan, Jr. in that the bag ring has a rib protruding from the bag ring sidewall.

Bounnakhom et al disclose a fluid filter assembly having a flexible bag ring (29) with an outturned peripheral flange (82) with ribs (85, 86, 94 and 95) protruding from the bag ring sidewall (93) and the flange (82) overlying and seated against the vessel sidewall shoulder and the rib (88) fitting into the groove (44) in the vessel sidewall to secure the filter to the vessel (col. 7, lines 36-53). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide ribs as taught by Bounnakhom et al in the bag ring of Morgan, Jr. since the ribs provide tight sealing of

the basket ring to the vessel sidewall preventing any fluid bypassing and enhancing fluid filtration efficiency.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Morgan (4,259,188) discloses a fluid filter housing and filter bag seal.
- Brunner (5,964,909) discloses a filter cartridge sealing method.
- Morgan, Jr. (5,137,632) discloses a self-retaining filter bag.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724
August 31, 2004